

Direct Deposit

The ERS strongly encourages retirees to elect to have their retirement benefit checks sent directly to their bank by electronic funds transfer (EFT), also known as direct deposit. Members using direct deposit do not have to worry about lost, stolen, or damaged checks, nor arrange for someone to deposit their checks when they are out of town or unable to go to the bank. This service is free, secure, reliable and convenient.

Sign Up for Direct Deposit: *Safe, Quick and Convenient*

Today, millions of Americans are getting their Social Security, supplemental income, disability, and Veterans payments sent directly to their accounts through Direct Deposit. As for RSA retirees, approximately 85,000 retirees (80%) enjoy the security and convenience of electronic transfer of their benefits, but 13,000 are still having their retirement benefit check mailed directly to their home. Dr. Bronner and the RSA staff strongly recommend Direct Deposit for your RSA retirement benefit payments.

In addition to offering benefit recipients a **convenient, safe and secure** way to get their retirement payments, Direct Deposit saves taxpayers millions of dollars annually in processing costs. The cost to the federal government to process a paper check is at least 41 cents more than to process a Direct Deposit payment. The RSA spends approximately **\$77,000 per year** on postage and printing costs for members who do not use Direct Deposit for their retirement benefits.

Direct deposit offers these benefits:

- **Convenience:** No more special trips to your institution to deposit your check. A nice feature if you are busy, ill, away from home, located far from a branch or in a place where parking is hard to find.
- **Reliability:** You no longer need to wait for your check to arrive in the mail. Your money will always be in your account on time. If you move without changing financial institutions, you will not have to wait for your check to catch up with you. EFT deposits your RSA retirement benefit into your account on the last business day of the month.
- **Security:** You do not have to worry about lost, stolen or misplaced checks. Forgeries, counterfeiting and check alterations do not occur with Direct Deposit transactions. It is also more confidential than getting a check because fewer people are involved in the process. **Anytime your check amount changes, the RSA will send you notification of the new amount of the Direct Deposit.**
- **Flexibility:** Signing up for Direct Deposit is easy to do. If you decide to switch accounts or institutions, it is also easy to change your Direct Deposit arrangements.

To get Direct Deposit for **RSA retiree benefits**, you and your financial institution must complete a Direct Deposit Authorization form that can be obtained by contacting the RSA at 1-800-214-2158 or downloading the form from our Web site. Send the completed form to us (no faxed copies please), and start enjoying your retirement more than ever.

Please notify the ERS immediately of any changes to your direct deposit information.